

THE  
**Borough of Daventry.**



# **REPORT**

OF

**The Medical Officer of Health**

FOR THE YEAR

**1913.**

*March 10th, 1914.*

= Report =

OF

The Medical Officer of Health.

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TO THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE  
DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL.

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GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting my Report for the year 1913: the arrangement of the report is modified by the requirements of the Local Government Board, issued in a Memorandum to Medical Officers of Health dated July 29, 1910.

## A.—Natural and Social Conditions of the District.

Daventry (area of borough 3427 acres) is situated in a hilly district, 480 feet above sea-level, 12 miles W. of Northampton, and 11 miles S.E. from Rugby. The soil is principally a brownish loam on a substratum of porous rock or gravel: the greater part of the land surrounding the town is meadow and pasture land.

### Population.

Census 1911..	..	..	..	..	..	3517.
Estimated 1913	..	..	..	..	..	3516.
Density of population per acre	..	..				1.02.

The amount of Poor Law Relief for the year was £148:17:7.

Average weekly No. of Inmates at the Workhouse, 79.

The principal landowners live outside the District with one or two exceptions, but there are several small freeholders.

Staple trade of the town—boot and shoe manufacture. There is one cycle factory. These give employment to about 520 hands, besides which there is resident in the town a good number of agricultural labourers, employed within or just outside the District.

The Borough is supplied with an Isolation Hospital (Sanatorium) for infectious cases, situated about 1 mile from the town and providing adequate accommodation for 16 patients (or more if necessary).

The nearest General Hospital is at Northampton.

## B.—Sanitary Circumstances of the District.

### Water Supply.

From two sources—

1. From Dodford; the property of the Corporation—*constant* and abundant—derived from a deep spring in the middle lias. The water is pure but very hard.

The scheme for the softening of this water has now been approved and the work involved should be complete in the course of the present year.



2. Borough Hill Supply—*intermittent*—a private supply from shallow springs flowing from the Northampton Sands at its junction with the clay beds, capable of supplying one-third of the town. This water is of excellent quality and possesses only a small degree of hardness.

It is satisfactory to note that during the Army Manœuvres (September, 1913) when between 2,000 and 3,000 men were encamped outside the town the very considerable amount of water required for men and horses was obtained from the town supply with the greatest facility and without causing any shortage for the time being or afterwards.

Long Marsh Camp during September	
(3 weeks) .. ..	385,000 gallons used.
Norton Road Camp, September 23-25	
(3 days) .. ..	30,000 gallons used.

## **Pollution of Streams and Rivers.**

There are two small streams (brooks) running through the town, both running to the Grand Junction Canal reservoir. No instance of pollution has come to my notice.

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

This is well carried out and in every way satisfactory—the sewage is conveyed to Sewage Works and farm for proper treatment and disposal.

## **Closet Accommodation.**

Water closets to *every* house, except in solitary houses away from the town where the privy system is still retained.

## **Scavenging.**

House refuse and ashes removed to Sewage Works on certain days of the week by the Corporation.

## **Sanitary Inspection of the District.**

A weekly inspection of lodging houses has been made throughout the year, and all cow-sheds, dairies, slaughterhouses, bakehouses and workshops visited at frequent intervals, lime-washing being carried out at the required times.

One cow-keeper has registered during the year.

Seven new drains have been inspected, and 16 defective drains have been repaired.

## Schools.

Four in number. (1) Grammar School (mixed); (2) Girls' High School; (3) and (4) Public Elementary Schools.

In the case of both Elementary Schools the requirements of the Local Government Board have now been fulfilled by the erection of new buildings which are eminently satisfactory in every way and the playgrounds attached are of large size, which adds materially to the welfare of the children—the town is to be congratulated on the completion of these schools. Abbey Schools opened for use November 13th; Council Schools, December 1st.

During the past year the Elementary Schools were closed, owing to a severe epidemic of measles, as under:—

Abbey Schools, infant dept.: April 1—April 14.

April 21—after Whitsun holidays.

Abbey and Council Schools: April 28—after Whitsun holidays.

Drayton (Infants) School: May 29—June 16.

(The spread of measles to Drayton occurred a few weeks later than to the town itself).

With a view to avoid as far as possible School closure in future I have placed certain suggestions (including the immediate notification by the School Officers of *any* infectious disease occurring in the school, to the Medical Officer of Health and the School Medical Officer) before the Sanitary Committee and it should greatly benefit the health of the Borough if the Education Authorities can see their way to the carrying out of the proposals made, which were based on the Memorandum of the Local Government Board relating to the prevention of spread of infectious disease occurring amongst children attending Public Elementary Schools (September, 1909).

## Food.

- a.* **Milk Supply**—satisfactory. No case of adulteration or contamination has been reported.

**Milk-shops, Cow-sheds, Dairies.** Ventilation of cowsheds was found deficient in four cases. Otherwise satisfactory.

- b.* **Other Foods.** No unsound food discovered, and no carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned.

Premises where foods prepared, stored or exposed for sale—satisfactory.

The condition of Bakehouses was satisfactory, with one exception against which the necessary steps have been taken.

## Slaughterhouses.

Frequently inspected and on the whole satisfactory.

## Housing.

From March 25th to December 31st, 1913, 212 re-inspections have been made under the House and Town Planning Act: of these 190 houses have been put into proper repair and seven houses have been demolished voluntarily by the owners. Ten new houses have been built.

The work of re-inspection is not yet complete.

No closing orders were made. One house was considered to be unfit for habitation, and is now being re-built.

Fourteen preliminary notices were issued under the Housing Act for general repairs. Twenty-two notices for nuisances were issued for defective drains, collections of offensive matter, etc.

Three statutory notices were issued for defective drainage and in each case the work was carried out.

**Tabular Statement** (Article v. Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910.

The No. of dwelling houses inspected	..	..	212
„ „ „ considered unfit for habitation	..	..	1
„ of representations made to local authority with view to making of closing orders	..	..	1
„ of closing orders made	..	..	0
„ of dwelling-houses the defects of which were remedied without the making of closing orders	..	..	1

The defects found were:—

Faulty drainage; defective roofs, floors and paving; dirty ceilings and walls; insufficient ventilation; general repairs.

The housing of the working classes in the Borough is adequate and no cases of overcrowding have been reported. Considerable improvement in the housing conditions is being made as the result of inspection under the Housing and Town Planning Act.

## Workshops, Workplaces.

The administration of the Factory and Workshop Act 1901, in the Borough is satisfactory. One defect in sanitary accommodation was reported and remedied: one bakehouse is unsatisfactory and the necessary steps have been taken to remedy this.



## C.—Sanitary Administration of the District.

1. Staff—One Medical Officer of Health and one Sanitary Inspector.

2. The 'Sanatorium' is capable of accommodating 12 cases in the new block, and 4 in the old wing, 16 in all, and is in the charge of two caretakers, resident in the building throughout the year, who undertake the duties of nursing, etc., when required. The building is in every way sufficient for the requirements of the Borough, and is well kept.

One case (scarlet fever) only has been admitted this year.

It is desirable that the Sanatorium be supplied with an efficient means of disinfecting bedding, clothing, etc., and I again strongly recommend that a disinfecting apparatus be provided. It is of the utmost importance that the Borough be supplied with the means of sterilising infected bedding, etc., from *any* house in which an infectious disease has occurred, to prevent further spread of the disease, and under present conditions disinfection is always incomplete—in the case of tuberculosis and puerperal fever the danger is very real.

3. Administration of Local Acts or General Adoptive Acts.—The following Acts have been adopted since April 9th, 1889.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act 1889.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act 1890.

Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890.

Private Street Works Act 1892.

Parts 2, 3, 4, 5 (except Sections 43 and 61) Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907.

Part 6 Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 (Recreation Grounds).

## D.—Prevalence of and Control over Acute Infectious Diseases.

During the year 16 cases of infectious disease were notified.

					Deaths.
Erysipelas	..	..	2	..	0
Scarlet Fever	..	..	4	..	0
Puerperal Fever	..	..	2	..	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	..		7	(6 primary)	1
Other Tuberculosis Diseases			1	..	1
			<hr/> 16		<hr/> 4

## Scarlet Fever.

The origin of the Scarlet Fever cases was obscure—one occurred in February and was removed to the Sanatorium—the other three occurred during November in the same house and were treated at home.

## Puerperal Fever.

Both cases were fatal—one occurring in March, the other October: the sanitary condition of the houses was perfectly satisfactory.

## Measles.

Very prevalent during April and May, necessitating School closure for several weeks. The disease was mostly of a mild type and some 180 cases occurred.

## Whooping Cough.

A few cases—one fatal.

The proposed School intimation of infectious disease is dealt with under Section B (Schools).

## E.—Prevalence of and Control over Tuberculosis.

Six primary notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis, with *one* removal from Oxendon District to Daventry Borough.

Four deaths from Tuberculosis occurred during the year of which two (one pulmonary, one meningitis) were notified during the year.

Printed instructions are given to consumptive patients and disinfectants and spitting cups provided if necessary. All cases of Tuberculosis are visited on receipt of notification and subsequent visits made in each case. On change of residence or death, disinfection of rooms, bedding, etc., is carried out as completely as possible.

## F.—Investigation of other Diseases.

Several cases occurred during February and March of Lobar Pneumonia, concurrently with an outbreak of Influenza—of these three were fatal, and two deaths more occurred from Pneumonia as a complication of Influenza and Rheumatic Fever respectively.



## G.—Means for preventing Mortality in Childbirth and in Infancy.

Health Visitor's Report has not been received.

## H.—Vital Statistics of the District.

(Tables I.—IV.)

### Births.

		Legitimate.		Illegitimate.		
Males	..	39	..	2	..	41
Females	..	28	..	4	..	32
		<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
		67		6	Total	73

Birth rate—20·18 per 1,000.

No births occurred in the Workhouse during the year.

### Deaths.

Sixty-two registered deaths, including 15 non-residents. Eleven residents were registered outside the District.

			Residents.		Non-Residents.		Total.
Daventry (excluding Workhouse)	45	..	1	..	46		
Workhouse	..	..	2	..	14	..	16
Sanatorium	..	..	0	..	0	..	0
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
			47		15		62

The nett No. of deaths belonging to District is therefore  $47 - 11 = 58$ , giving a death rate of 16·49 (or corrected death rate by use of 'factor' for District— $\cdot 7843 \times 16\cdot 49 = 12\cdot 93$ ).

The rates for previous years were as follows :—

1908	..	12·16	} uncorrected.
1909	..	10·84	
1910	..	11·37	
1911	..	11·65	
1912	..	12·51	

## Deaths at various ages.

(Urban cases only).

	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
Under 1 year .. ..	9	2.55
Between 1 and 2 years .. ..	—	—
"    2    "    5    "    .. ..	2	.56
"    5    "  15    "    .. ..	1	.28
"  15    "  25    "    .. ..	1	.28
"  25    "  45    "    .. ..	9	2.55
"  45    "  65    "    .. ..	12	3.36
Over 65 years .. ..	24	6.72
	—	
	58	

## Analysis of Causes of Deaths.

	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 of Population.
Measles .. ..	1	.28
Whooping Cough .. ..	1	.28
Diphtheria .. ..	1	.28
Influenza .. ..	1	.28
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. ..	3	.85
Tubercular Meningitis .. ..	1	.28
Other Tuberculosis Diseases .. ..	1	.28
Cancer .. ..	7	1.99
Rheumatic Fever .. ..	1	.28
Meningitis .. ..	1	.28
Organic Heart Disease .. ..	3	.85
Bronchitis .. ..	1	.28
Pneumonia .. ..	3	.85
Diarrhoea .. ..	2	.57
Appendicitis .. ..	1	.28
Cirrhosis of Liver .. ..	2	.57
Bright's Disease .. ..	3	.85
Puerperal Fever .. ..	2	.57
Congenital Malformation, including Premature Birth .. ..	3	.85
Violent Death .. ..	1	.28
Other Defined Diseases .. ..	19	5.4

The death rate for the year is abnormally high. Reference to the tables shews a large increase in the deaths between the ages 25 and 65 years, viz. : **21 deaths** against

16	in	1912
13	„	1911
10	„	1910
11	„	1909
8	„	1908

Of these 21 deaths Pneumonia accounts for five (two are recorded under the headings of Influenza and Rheumatic Fever), Cancer four, Puerperal Fever two, Pulmonary Tuberculosis two.

Above the age of 65 years, 14 of the 19 deaths recorded occurred from *Senile Decay*; this is abnormally high for one year *and contributes largely to the rise in the death rate for this year* compared with previous years.

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Reviewing the year, despite the unusually high death rate (which is more or less accidental as explained above), the general health of the Borough has been good—the epidemic of Measles in the Spring though affecting a very large number of children was directly the cause of only one death: there is a slight increase in the number of cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis, and two deaths have occurred from Puerperal Fever, both cases evidently not due to insanitary conditions.

I trust that the ensuing year will compare more favourably with other years, and

Beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

C. H. SEDGWICK,

March 10, 1914.

*Medical Officer of Health.*



